

Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Homily Helps and Petitions for the The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Cycle A (January 1, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Numbers 6: The Lord said to Moses: ..."This is how you shall bless the Israelites: The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

Psalms 67: May God bless us in his mercy.... May he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.

Galatians 4: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption.

Luke 2: All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

† Comments for the Day:

In this new year of 2023, we find ourselves in a world torn by violence, not only between nations but also in our own neighborhoods. The violence is not coming from only war and hate, but also from greed that consumes earth's limited resources. While this drives the economy, it also contributes to climate change that in turn leads to drought, flooding, famine, and disease. The continuing impact of the industrial world, including how we travel and consume energy, imposes unsustainable demands on our planet. Many feel worried and even overwhelmed by what's happening.

God created not just you and me, but the entire planet and indeed the universe that we are just beginning to explore. God is for us, his most precious creation. Moses was told to assure us that God holds out blessing for us. Like Mary, we have to accept and act on it if we are to make the world a better place.

A good way to start the new year is to commit to following Pope Francis in his call for peace for care of our "common home." We must not only stop killing one another, but also the earth by our negligence and our greed. God has one family in one place. We are to love the whole human race as our family and so together care for God's creation.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

We can ask ourselves if we are responding as Mary did when she was called by God to bring Christ into the troubled world of her time, to work with him to save us and the world? Mary is the Queen of Peace and Queen of the Universe. We should work with her throughout this new year to help bring about peace, joy, and love.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically.... He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness.... He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. (10)

When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of "might is right" has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus. (82)

We can hardly consider ourselves to be fully loving if we disregard any aspect of reality: "Peace, justice and *the preservation of creation* are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually without once again falling into reductionism." (92) (Italics added.)

In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. (218)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we be peacemakers in our world in this troubled time, to help overcome fear and replace it with love, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That all people will grow in awe and reverence for God's creation, deeply realizing that our Creator is ever present and entrusts to us our "common home," let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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